



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 25, 1999

S. 1508

Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on October 13, 1999

SUMMARY

S. 1508 would authorize funding for programs that support tribal justice systems. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$464 million over the 2000-2007 period, including \$58 million already authorized for 2000, for the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain provisions of the Indian Tribal Justice Act. S. 1508 also would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to organizations to develop and strengthen tribal justice systems. CBO estimates this effort would cost about \$5 million annually, assuming appropriation of that amount. In 1999, neither the Department of the Interior (DOI) nor the Department of Justice (DOJ) received any appropriations to implement programs that would be authorized by S. 1508.

Based on information from DOI and DOJ, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1508 would cost \$232 million over the 2000-2004 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1508 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1508 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2000 and that the authorized amounts will be provided for each year. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1508 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Spending on Tribal Justice Systems					
Under Current Law					
Authorization Level ^a	58	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	41	13	2	0	0
Proposed Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	5	63	63	63	63
Estimated Outlays	5	46	59	61	61
Spending on Tribal Justice Systems					
Under S. 1508					
Estimated Authorization Level	63	63	63	63	63
Estimated Outlays	46	59	61	61	61

a. The 2000 level is the amount authorized under current law. Thus far, no appropriations have been provided for 2000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 1508 would authorize the appropriation of \$58 million a year for fiscal years 2000 through 2007 for the Secretary of the Interior to establish and operate the Office of Tribal Justice Support. Under current law, \$58 million is already authorized in 2000 for this work, but no funds have been appropriated thus far. The purpose of the office would be to develop, operate, and enhance tribal justice systems and traditional judicial practices of tribal governments. Based on information from DOI, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$207 million over the 2000-2004 period, assuming annual appropriation of the authorized amount.

S. 1508 also would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to organizations representing personnel of tribal judicial systems and to nonprofit organizations providing legal services to tribes. The Attorney General would provide grants and technical assistance to tribes to assist them in developing and operating tribal justice systems and related programs. Based on information from DOJ, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would require an annual appropriation of \$5 million, and would result in spending of \$25 million over the 2000-2004 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1508 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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